

**West Mojave Plan**  
Steering Committee  
Green Tree Inn, Victorville  
November 30, 1999 9 AM

Attending: Pete Kiriakos, Lorelai Oviatt, Tim Salt, Ileene Anderson, Rebecca Jones, Ray Bransfield, Jeri Ferguson, Gerald Hillier, Mark Hagen, Mickey Quillman, Gene Kuleza, Mike Conner, Jeannette Hayhurst, Ramon Mendoza, Lowell Landowski, Hector Villalobos

West Mojave Plan staff: Bill Haigh, team leader Larry LaPre, biologist, Valerie Pillmer, planner, Chuck Bell, local government relations

Observers: Bob Rudnick, Phil Rudnick

Facilitator: Dale Schaeffer

9:20 Start

Bill Haigh  
Introductions

Review of Task Groups

Review of Issues

Maps - Available by December 16 with help from EAFB and PG&E

April 3 deadline - Keep as target date

Size of task groups - now rather large, subgroups needed

Interaction of task groups 3 and 4. Task group 3 will consider one-stop shopping, 404 permits, CEQA issues. Task group 4 does funding, mechanics of implementation, monitoring.

Next meetings - December 16 and 17 = Task groups 1, 3, 4. January = Group 2

Mohave ground squirrel - CDFG has recommended a revised conservation map and is almost finished with conservation strategy.

Rare plants - Larry. WEMO Team will meet with Dr. Reed Noss December 6 and CDFG staff to discuss how to cover little-known species.

Mickey Quillman - Task Group 1

Fort Irwin expansion - Two maps will be made, one with the expansion, one without.  
Data needs - more accurate maps for DWMA, compare DWMA's in Recovery Plan with recommendations in evaluation report.

Lowell - What about habitat capability for tortoise? Modelling is difficult. Disease is a complicating factor. Ed LaRue will explain how habitat quality factors entered into the recommendations.

Gerald Hillier - Task Group 2 Vehicle access task group.

January 10, 9 AM next meeting.

Specific consideration must be given to private land when routes are designated. Easements may be required. Could be implementation issue.

How to approach mapping and review process was discussed. BLM has broken area into 22 polygons. How to verify existing roads? What ground-truthing is needed? At next meeting, one polygon will be reviewed. El Paso polygon near Garlock Road. This review will allow group to determine if April 3 target date can be met.

How to fold in other plans - Afton Canyon and Jawbone Butterbredd. Would these areas be open to change?

Lorelai - This is an HCP and not a regional transportation plan or primarily a BLM route plan.

This plan can't fix everything. PM 10 cannot be solved with this plan. Some issues do not need the detail in the multispecies plan.

Pete - CEQA documents must cover pertinent issues.

Ramon - Evaluate the problem and see if it applies. PM 10 could be important, or it may have no impact on our objectives.

Chuck Bell - Responses to draft 3 were that this is a species plan, not a land use plan. Must retain the nexus between land use and the species of concern.

Lorelai - Road designation on private land is different than designation on public land.

Landowners have ability to dedicate roads as they wish, regardless of connections to public routes.

Phil Rudnick - Willing to work with task group on route designation on private lands.

Trespassing issue must be addressed.

EPA - encourage, prohibit, or allow. This issue must be examined.

Tortoise-proof fences will be addressed in task group 1.

Pete - We may need legal feedback or guidelines on question of signage to protect resources.

Enforcement may depend on presence of signs.

Tim Salt - Signage is very important issue. Existing regulations govern some aspects of this issue.

Lowell - Locals sometimes have strong feelings about new signs, i.e. hunting areas. Must not confuse a programmatic plan with a project-level plan. Sierra National Forest route plan has been challenged.

Jeri - Encouraged routes need to be signed. Wandering could cause damage.

Lowell - Is use of the route a problem or existence of the route a problem?

Gerry - Some degree of quantification needs to be inserted into analysis.

Bill - All designations are to be done through West Mojave Plan. All will be reviewed by wildlife agencies. BLM regulations must be followed.

Mark Hagen - Steering Committee should consider asking task groups to look at how plan fits into other surrounding regional plans.

Bill - Summaries of this issue are being prepared now by planning team.

Jeannette - Steering Committee is micromanaging the task groups. Role of Steering Committee as oversight for task groups needs to be defined. Threeroles: 1. Knit groups together. 2.

Resolve issues. 3. Report new policy issues from wildlife agencies.

### Lowell Landowski - Task Group 3 Regulatory Issues

Legal mandates from all relevant oversight agencies must be addressed.

Some suggestions that groups 3 and 4 be merged. Policies must be known before implementation can be addressed.

What is Steering Committee's opinion on distinction between task groups?

Bill - Group 1 gives biological program.

Group 3 writes what programs will be created to achieve biological program. Procedural steps.

Group 4 decides how to fund plan, amend plan, auditing plan's success.

Issues were framed at group meeting. Review of notes.

Local regulations will vary on how to issue conditional use permits.

Ramon - This plan must have a land use element. Counties and cities must understand how species are treated.

(11:35 - Jeannette leaves)

Tim Salt - Concerned that if legislation is necessary, we're not on the right trail.

Pete - This refers to local ordinances.

#### Lowell Landowski - Task Group 4 Implementation

Review of notes.

Budget information is needed (cost of plan).

Access to data needs to be resolved (including cost).

Lorelai - Both jurisdictional and private landowner opt in/opt out

Bill Haigh - If Steering Committee has additional comments on tasks for the groups, e-mail concerns to Bill this week. Bill will assemble recommendations of assignments for task groups, especially differences between groups 3 and 4.

Should groups 3 and 4 be merged or separate?

Mike Conner - composition of groups was quite different.

Pete - Coordination needs to be improved.

Jeri - Facilitator will keep them on track.

Consensus is to keep the groups separate.

Mark Hagen - Military will take under consideration whether or not to be participants in task groups (rather than as observers).

Next meeting January 11, 2000.

12:25 Adjourn.